

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in Applicants' application. In the September 28, 2004 Office Action, The abstract of the disclosure is objected to due to various alleged informalities. Claims 1-3, 8-14, 17, and 18 stand objected to due to various alleged informalities. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In addition, Claims 8-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Har-Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,429,902). Finally, Claims 17 and 18 are allowable. Claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph set forth in this office action.

Applicants have corrected the various alleged informalities of Claims 1-7 as well as the claim rejections for Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 12, second paragraph. Applicants have cancelled Claims 8-16 without prejudice. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 17-18. It is submitted, therefore, that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of this effect is earnestly solicited.

If for any reason, the patent application is not considered to be in condition for allowance and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (312) 913-0001.


Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Date: _____

1/11/05

By: _____


Thomas E. Wettermann
Reg. No. 41,523